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detained beyond the period of their sentences that they might be treated for venereal disease—one case for 26 months.

The report does not say anything about prison management nor about prisoners' organizations such as "welfare leagues," if any such exist.

The part of the report that deals with probation records satisfactory work with probationers. The following recommendations should be noted: That the probation officer be given an allowance to use in putting young delinquents on their feet and that probationers be put on lengthy, not short, terms, giving the probation officer the right to ask for a remission of part of the sentence.

The report of the prisons board calls attention to the fact that a larger proportion of the group classed as "Reformation Detention Cases" refrain from getting into further difficulty than the "habitual criminal." The proportions are 80% of the first group and 52% of the second group. The statistics show that 47% of the habitual criminals return to their former criminal careers; 1% have absconded or not been traced. Because of the heredity of the repeated offenders the board recommends the consideration of sterilization.—Joel Dubois Hunter, Chicago.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**Statistics of Arrests of Minors in Paris in 1918.**—The following statistics prepared by M. Harduin, chief of the first division of the *Prefecture de police*, are published in the *Revue pénitentiaire et de droit pénal* in the July-October, 1919, issue.

There were arrested in 1918, 6,258 minors (children and young persons under twenty-one years of age) as compared with 6,792 in 1917, a decrease of 534. In 1918 the 6,258 minors were the occasion of 6,591 arrests. In 1917 the 6,792 minors were the occasion of 7,433 arrests, a decrease in 1918 of 842 arrests. Of those arrested, 20 per cent in 1918 and 21 per cent in 1917 were girls or young women. The age distribution of those arrested is as follows:

	1918	1917	Decrease in 1918
Up to 16 years.....	892	1,147	255
16 to 18 years.....	2,451	2,759	298
18 up to 21 years.....	3,248	3,537	289
 Total .....	 6,591	 7,433	 842

This apparent decrease in crime among young persons of all ages and of both sexes is especially interesting when examined in relation to specific offenses. Some significant decreases in 1918 are in the following offenses:

	1918	1917
Murders, assassinations .....	50	91
Mendicity .....	18	41
Vagabonds .....	1,010	1,296
Carrying prohibited weapons.....	213	253
Robbery .....	3,014	3,278
Robbery with violence at night.....	1,861	2,444
Pocket-picking .....	58	89

The offenses are classified, and changes in 1918 as compared with 1917 are summarized as follows:

Offenses against public order: decrease of 548  
Offenses against the person: decrease of 118

Offenses against property: decrease of 257  
Offenses against morals: increase of 30  
Miscellaneous: increase of 51

In addition to the above, all offenses against the common law, statistics are given for the offense of prostitution. In 1918, 1,927 girls and young women were arrested 2,729 times for the offense of prostitution in comparison with 1,908 young persons arrested 2,842 times in 1917 for this offense. There is noted, therefore, an increase for 1918 of 19 in the number of persons arrested for this offense and a decrease of 113 arrests.—Edith Abbott, University of Chicago.

**Alcoholism and Crime in France.**—Members of the jury of the *Cour d'Assises de la Seine* for the second session of the month of July, 1919, addressed to the chancellor the following letter in order to call to his attention the deplorable consequences of the development of alcoholism (*le Temps*, August, 1917).

"Of 27 cases inscribed on the docket of this session, 14 have been decided, and in 10 of these alcohol has been the initial cause if not the sole cause of the crime. The result: seven human lives lost.

"At a time when the productive force of their (our) glorious country has been so reduced, it appears to them (us) inadmissible that society should have no resource by which to defend itself from the scourge of alcoholism except to pass sentence on its misdeeds and to have no means of prevention.

"If the law does not furnish sufficient weapons for this purpose, they think you are best qualified to know what measures are necessary and to obtain them by legislative action. In so doing you would prevent the loss of time and energy of the members of the jury, lawyers, judges who could then be employed in ways more useful to society who now have no energy or no time to lose, and especially you would bring about a saving of human lives, the number of which is more and more precious."

The comment of the *Revue* on the above letter is that while one must not overvalue such a suggestion, the quality of the signatures requires the attention of the public authorities to the facts which have occasioned it.—*Revue pénitentiaire*, July-October, 1919—Edith Abbott, University of Chicago.

#### **Lynching, an Evil of County Government.—**

I have just read with great interest an address of 21 pages delivered before the Georgia Bar Association by Mr. Robert C. Alston, "Concerning Lynching."

Mr. Alston is different from most lawyers and orators in his pictures of word painting, in that he not only puts life and expression in them, but he puts brains.

Life, liberty and property are three things that the law must guarantee to man before trial, and especially to him who lives in the South. There is not any brighter light shining today than Robert Cotton Alston.

Having stated the facts above, I submit statistics of the states in our Union showing the population, area in square miles, number lynched and counties in each state in 1915 to October 11: